

REMARKS

Applicant filed Amendment D in response to the final Office action on July 11, 2007. The amendments in that paper have been entered by the Advisory action. The amendments to claims made by this paper are therefore compared to the claims as filed in Amendment D.

It is believed that the objection of claim 38 for minor informalities in the final Office action has been overcome by Amendment D.

The Advisory action, however, maintains rejections of all claims on the same bases as noted in the final rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 102 (Anticipation)

Claims 1-7, 10, 21-24, 26, and 34-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,766,076 to Pease et al. (the "Pease" reference). In Amendment D, independent claims 1, 21, and 34 were amended to recite removing output data from a second database after the transmission of the output data to the first database. The Advisory action finds that such feature is inherent in Pease, "at least because Pease's equivalent of a second database (e.g., processor 138) is limited by the size of the processor's data storage. The data stored in the second database must therefore be discarded in order to maintain normal operation and prevent overloading the data storage capacity."

The three independent claims 1, 21, and 34 have been further amended to clarify the scope of the data "removing" feature recited in the claims. In addition, claims 1, 21, and 34 have been amended to recite that the processes performed by the programmed hardware of claim 1 and the steps of the methods of claims 21 and 34 are performed without command from the central authority. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 21, and 34 are patentably different from the apparatus and method taught in the Pease reference.

First, regarding the data removing feature, claim 1 is representative, and the relevant part now reads: "a programmed hardware configured ... to transmit said output data over the network to the first database from the second database and then remove said output data from the second database in response to said transmission of said output data." These amendments are supported

explicitly or inherently by, for example, paragraph 58 as originally filed, which says, in relevant part:

At regular time intervals, the poller function of the data mover in unit 40 moves the data from tables L-TICKET, L-PLAYER, L-SMD and L-JP in database 46 to corresponding tables RT-TICKET, RT-PLAYER, RT-SMD and RT-JP in database 24 through interface 48 and subnetwork 18. Moved data from tables L-TICKET, L-PLAYER, L-SMD and L-JP then are erased from database 46.

¶ 58, pages 26-27; see ¶¶ 51-56.

Each of the independent claims 1, 21, and 34 now requires that the apparatus or method of the present application transmits output data from a local database to a central database “and then” removes the output data from the local database “in response to” the transmission. This active data removal limitation as recited in the claims is completely different from the passive, inherent data overwriting scenario that might happen in the Pease reference as identified by the Advisory action.

One of the features of the claimed embodiments of the present application is that the input data needed by the one or more of the gaming machines are obtained indirectly from the central database. The local data processing unit comprising the local database stores input data obtained from the central database and transmits the input data to a gaming machine when needed by the gaming machine. The local data processing unit in the claimed embodiments, however, does not generate input data directly from the output data that are temporarily stored in it, or transmit the output data directly back to the gaming machine. Instead, the output data are removed from the local database after they are transmitted to the central database in response to such transmission.

The Pease reference does not describe or suggests such an apparatus or method. The Pease reference teaches that the processor 138 receives information from the casino system, and communicates a number of types of information to the central system. Col. 5, lines 44-45 and 56-57. It does not teach or suggest that the casino information transmitted to the central system is then removed from the database maintained by the gateway processor 138 in response to the transmission. On the contrary, the Pease reference teaches that the gateway processor 138 maintains a current database of gaming machines. Col. 6, lines 20-23.

Second, claims 1, 21, and 34 have been amended to require that the programmed hardware of claim 1 is configured to perform the processes recited in the claim without command from the central authority, and the steps of the methods of claims 21 and 34 are performed without command from the central authority. These amendments are supported by the application as originally filed in, for example, paragraphs 44-62 discussing the three processes—administrator, poller and data mover—performed by unit 40.

An apparatus or method as defined in claim 1, 21, or 34 is completely different from the apparatus or method of the Pease reference, because in the Pease reference, the central computer system 106 polls the gateway processor 138 for casino information. See col. 6, lines 48-56; col. 7, lines 3-5, 59-61; col. 8, lines 10-18. Such poll message initiated by the central computer system may also convey to the gateway processor 138 information about the current value of the jackpot. Col. 6, lines 58-60. Therefore, in the Pease reference, the central system commands the gateway processor to retrieve and transmit to it the requested casino information; and the gateway processor (or casino) transmits information to the central system in response to a poll sent from the central system. See col. 6, lines 48-56; col. 7, lines 3-5, 59-61; col. 8, lines 10-18. The Pease reference does not teach or suggest a method or system wherein the gateway processor transmits output information to and obtain input information from the central computer system without command from the central computer system.

Therefore, the claimed subject matter of claim 1, 21, or 34 of the present application is novel and patentably different from the Pease reference.

U.S. 6,682,421 to Rowe et al. (the “Rowe” reference) and the several other references made of record (which include U.S. 5,851,149 to Xidos et al., U.S. 6,275,867 to Bendert et al., and U.S. 5,885,158 to Torango et al.) do not teach or suggest the elements discussed above that are missing in the Pease reference. Therefore, claims 1, 21, or 34 are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record at least for these reasons, and are allowable as amended.

Claims 2-7, 10, 22-24, and 35-38 are dependent from claim 1, 21, or 34, and are thus allowable over the prior art of record at least for the same reasons as for claim 1, 21 or 34.

35 U.S.C. § 103 (Obviousness)

Claims 8, 9, 25, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Pease reference in view of the Rowe reference.

Claims 8, 9, 25, and 39 depend on claim 1, 21, or 34. As discussed above, the Pease reference, the Rowe reference, and the other references of record do not teach each and every limitation of claim 1, 21 or 34, either alone or combined together, and thus, claims 1, 21, and 34 are allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, claims 8, 9, 25 and 39 are allowable at least for the same reason as for claims 1, 21, and 34.

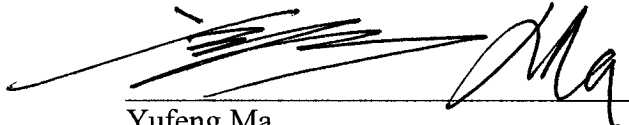
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims 1-10, 21-26 and 34-39. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the required fees for the REC, Petition for Extension of Time, and any additional fees, or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,
McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.

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